

# *Church and State*

VOLUMES 1 THRU 7

(1948 thru 1954)

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CHURCH AND STATE NEWSLETTER  
*Compiled and Circulated by*  
PROTESTANTS AND OTHER AMERICANS UNITED  
FOR SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE  
924 Colorado Bldg., Washington 9, D. C.

May 15, 1948.

This is a first report of our stewardship by the officers, executive committee and staff of POAU - the highlights of our first quarter as a going concern and the background of origin. May 15, 1947 marked the resumption of consultations by leading churchmen which had been broken off when World War II began....Another meeting was held October 13....Organization was voted, officers chosen, a National Advisory Council composed of 125 members was authorized November 20 (a separate list of those enlisted is attached)....January 12, 1948, a Manifesto, signed by the top leaders, was released and widely carried by the Nation's press...attention was called to certain States where legislatures have yielded to church political pressures...also that Federal Supreme Court decisions had confirmed State action using public school funds (1) to provide free text books for parochial schools (1930) and (2) to transport pupils to such schools (1947). The Manifesto also said the Catholic church has made ominous progress in its strategy of winning for itself a position of special privilege in relation to the State through the Taylor ambassadorship to the Pope.

Sharp rejoinder came from John E. Swift, supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus, the very next day, predicting POAU "will fall of its own weight because...it is loaded with an intolerance unacceptable to the American people"...he called the Manifesto "brazen," said we questioned the patriotism of "any citizen...who dares to disagree with [us] ...brazen and inaccurate interpretation of the First Amendment...your executives," said Swift, "irresistibly remind us of wolves in sheep's clothing."

The National Catholic Welfare Conference followed up on January 26 with a pronouncement written by Archbishop McNicholas...through the NCWC the Catholic church provides for its followers authoritarian leadership and influence on a variety of issues....March 8 our reply appeared....We recounted the taking over of North College Hill (Cincinnati) by a Catholic school board majority...the incorporating of a parochial school into the public system, paying McNicholas \$6,000 for 10 months' building rent...nuns placed on the public payroll...all this resulting in overthrow of church control at the polls after schools were blacklisted by State and National Education Associations and a public meeting of the school board ended in riot.

New Mexico's sad plight was cited where 135 nuns and brothers and 1 priest are paid by the State as teachers in public schools....POAU has aided in the moves to close this breach through legal counsel. (Send for "Shadows Over Our Schools" for details).

Supreme Court closes breach...rules 8 to 1 that released time for religious education under sectarian instruction in public school buildings is illegal....This was the famous McCollum case, decided March 8, 1948. POAU went on record at once, approving the decision. It is believed the decision reinforced the barrier and effectually closed the door against any Federal or State funds going directly in aid of non-public or parochial schools.

An archive is being built by POAU. So far we have a file of over 2,500 news clippings since the first of the year on the issues and public attitudes re separation of church and state. We shall undertake research along lines of our special concerns. Please help by sending us data that you may acquire.



What your dollars help do is shown by the fact we have mailed out literature to serve thousands of requests since January 15. This is but a start on the job. We must increasingly mobilize public opinion in support of religious liberty, urge quitting the ambassadorship to the Vatican, work to repeal State laws aiding church schools from public funds, and aid citizens in resisting church encroachment upon public treasuries.

Your office staff has an ever increasing activity program under way...this calls for a constantly expanding force, the expense will be heavy....Membership contributions show a steady gain in each consecutive month as our message fans out through the land...even after the Supreme Court decision which may lull some to a sense of false security.... You must realize your dollars must support a long and difficult program if our liberties are to be preserved....With this message, we hope many sending \$1.00 at the outset for annual enrollment will want to increase their subscriptions to at least \$10.00 as contributing members. Bulk orders for Manifestoes and other literature have gone to over 600 churches and organizations for distribution....Protestant ministers throughout the country are receiving the Manifesto and literature....Requests for the 32-page reprint of Senator Donnell's speech in the Senate and documentation for amending the Bill for Federal Aid to Education are increasing....Advertisements were placed in nine church magazines in April, aggregating 1,000,000 circulation.

The Catholic church exercises political control beyond its numerical importance... Catholics operate by fiat. Protestants and Other Americans can only seek to educate... we hope to earn the right to be a major instrument in such education in terms of the objectives of the Manifesto....With not more than one-sixth of the voting population of the United States, Roman Catholic, here are interesting figures on the religious affiliations of the present Congress....There are 112 Methodists, 77 Roman Catholics, 72 Baptists, 57 Presbyterians, 62 Episcopalians, 26 Congregationalists, 23 Christians, 18 Lutherans, 7 Jewish, 6 Unitarians, 5 Latter Day Saints, (all other denominations, less than 5 each). Of the Senators who belong to a church, 84 are Protestants, 10 are Roman Catholics....Time after time in Senate votes, there is too little evidence of Protestant conviction.

Parochial school defined...the primary purpose of a church school is to serve its own purposes...i.e., it establishes, confirms and propagates its religious, social and economic beliefs....With this in mind, you will want to work to secure an amendment to the McCowen Bill (HR-2953) to make explicit and unmistakable that no funds shall be appropriated directly or indirectly for the benefit of non-public or parochial schools.

Frank S. Mead, National Advisory Council member of POAU, former managing editor of the Christian Herald, has been assigned the task of locating, describing and analyzing the various situations in America where it is charged that violations of church and state separation occur. You can help by forwarding to us leading information from your locality to be turned over for incorporation in his report. We expect other articles, nationwide in scope, like "Shadows Over Our Schools"...if you haven't read this, order reprints on handy order form on the last page. Further examples of what we want the facts on are - North Dakota, where 74 nuns and 8 priests, wearing their distinctive garb, are employed as public school teachers...Oregon, where public schools are held in rented space in parochial school buildings in two communities and the State School Superintendent holds the arrangement is "within the law"....Get photographs if such things occur in your community, forward them to us...we hope to make a slide film story for the use of lecturers and organizers of local committees.

Where battle lines are drawn....Nineteen states and one territory of the United States permit transportation of parochial-school pupils at public expense, according to the Research Division of the National Education Association...California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island,

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Wyoming, and Hawaii....In 1946, rental of church-owned buildings for public school purposes was permitted by Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming....Employment of teachers wearing religious garb was allowed in Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Texas....We shall educate to mold the public will to close these breaches in the wall of separation of church and state. If you are in any of these States, here is a simple blueprint for local action.

CONSTITUTION FOR THE \_\_\_\_\_ COMMITTEE  
Adopted \_\_\_\_\_  
Registered with the National Board \_\_\_\_\_

ARTICLE I

Section 1. The activities of POAU shall be carried on in any locality by a committee working in cooperation with the National organization under the general direction of a chairman who shall be a member of the National Advisory Council and who shall be appointed by the National Executive Committee.

Section 2. The Constitution and By-laws of the National organization, and the actions of the National Executive Committee, shall be the operating rules.

Section 3. The \_\_\_\_\_ Committee shall operate within the boundaries of the State of \_\_\_\_\_ or radius of \_\_\_\_\_ miles of \_\_\_\_\_ (city).  
(Strike out that which does not apply)

Section 4. The \_\_\_\_\_ Committee shall be constituted and called into existence when its organization, with not less than ten members, officers, and Executive Board, shall have been approved by the National Executive Committee.

ARTICLE II

Section 1. Any person residing in the (state) or (community) of \_\_\_\_\_, who is in agreement with the principle of the separation of church and state and who has read and subscribed to the Manifesto of POAU may become a member.

ARTICLE III

Section 1. Each local committee shall draw up rules of organization and procedure patterned as closely after the Constitution and By-laws of National POAU as local conditions warrant. Such rules to be approved by the State chairman and filed with the National office of POAU.

ARTICLE IV

Section 1. The \_\_\_\_\_ Committee may, in addition to dues and contributions made direct by members to the National POAU, request such funds of its members as may be required to conduct its local work.

ARTICLE V

Section 1. The \_\_\_\_\_ Committee shall meet at the call of its president, the state chairman, or at the request of any three members of the local executive board. For a committee to remain active, it should meet at least once a year for the election of officers and the conduct of such business as may properly come before it.

Write us at once if you wish to undertake local action and we will serve as a clearing house with other interested parties in your area to help you call your first meeting. State chairmen, when appointed, will be announced in future newsletters.

Distribute Literature for Community Action

Sell or give to your friends and neighbors or your club, congregation, your teachers' organization or a community mass meeting any of the following literature. (Check off amount you desire).

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(Tear off here)

	Single copy	12 copies	100 copies	Amount desired
Manifesto - booklet form	5¢	60¢	\$4.50	
Manifesto - Congressional Record Reprint	1¢	10¢	.75	
"Shadows Over Our Schools"	5¢	60¢	4.50	
Bishop Oxnham's Reply to Archbishop Cushing	5¢	75¢	5.00	
Ban of Federal Aid to Sectarian Schools - Senator Donnell	10¢	1.00	8.50	
"Time for a Showdown" (24 pp.) - Dana	5¢	60¢	4.50	
Assorted literature packet for mass meeting (100 items)			1.00	
SEPARATE CHURCH AND STATE NOW (256-page, cloth-bound book by Joseph Martin Dawson - explains Religious Liberty as a paramount issue. Endorsed by POAU...now on Press).....			\$2.50 each	

Here is my check for items checked above for \$\_\_\_\_\_.

.....  
Your challenge to help educate....We repeat - it is no part of our purpose or desire to propagandize the Protestant faith, or any other, nor to criticize or oppose the teaching or internal practices of the Roman Catholic church, or any other. We have no connection or sympathy with any movement that is tinged with religious fanaticism....Is there a clericalist conspiracy to take over part of the field of the public school in America?....The position of the Holy See, frankly set forth by Pope Pius XI December 31, 1929 in the encyclical "Christian Education of Youth,"...averts that education belongs preeminently to the church - that is, the Roman Catholic church, because of its asserted divine authority.... The Pope declared that parochial education should not be allowed merely to supplement public education, but should come ahead of it in the responsibilities of the state...in a nation where there are different religious beliefs...it becomes the duty of the state... to give the church and family assistance.

.....  
Believing in the principles and policies as set forth in the Manifesto of Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State, I hereby enroll (or reaffirm) as a member.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Pls. se print)

Street and No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address: Post Office \_\_\_\_\_ Zone No. \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Membership fee enclosed: Cash\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks or money orders payable to: Treasurer, POAU, 924 Colorado Bldg., Washington 5, D.C.





## CHURCH AND STATE NEWSLETTER

Compiled and Circulated by  
 PROTESTANTS AND OTHER AMERICANS UNITED  
 FOR SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE  
 924 Colorado Bldg., Washington 9 D C



Opinions expressed herein are for your information only and are not to be considered as policy determinations on the part of your Executive Committee. For this reason, material is not to be quoted or reprinted without permission.

July 10, 1948.

"You hear strange things about Catholics," so reads the headline on one of the ads run by the Knights of Columbus in newspapers and national magazines this spring. The aim is to educate non-Catholics on basic beliefs and history of the Catholic Church; also, to combat anti-Catholic feeling. The ads present Catholic propaganda with astonishing claims, such as "The Bible is a Catholic Book." We welcome this bold approach to the open forum of public opinion. We also consider it a challenge for us to widen and intensify our educational program in terms of the Manifesto. Catholics state (we think they count all babies) "at least one out of every six Americans is a Catholic." The K. of C. campaign started four years ago in newspapers in Missouri. This January, the campaign went national. Over \$100,000 was appropriated. The assignment was given to its year-old Religious Information Bureau by the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus. Magazines used include Pathfinder, American Weekly (Hearst Newspaper Sunday Supplement), Household and Liberty. Mats of these ads are also sent to local K. C. Councils which run and pay for them in local papers. By the end of May, it is reported they had received 75,000 requests for literature and distributed about 125,000 pamphlets. Also, they claim that the campaign has brought from 1 out of every 12 persons asking for literature, a later request for religious instruction by mail. We of P.O.A.U. consider this a challenge to redouble our own efforts to acquaint every thinking person in this great Democracy with the principles of the Manifesto. Ecclesiastical totalitarianism is as menacing as political totalitarianism. In the end, it leads to the same denial of the basic freedom - freedom of thought, of expression, and the right to worship according to the dictates of one's own conscience. Let us give the people the facts -- "let the people know."

Adventists Oppose Public Aid. One religious denomination which operates 967 parochial schools in North America and a total of 3,500 schools and colleges over the world, but which opposes any program of public aid to such schools, is the Seventh Day Adventists.

Pointing out that their schools, mostly of elementary grades, would stand to benefit from such a program, attorneys for their Conference nevertheless filed a brief in the recent Champaign, Illinois religious education case arguing that the Constitution "forbids state support, financial or otherwise, of religion, in any guise, form or degree," and that this "includes religious training and teaching."

Oklahoma Denies Parochial Transit. In 1939, the Oklahoma State Legislature, under tightly organized minority group pressure, provided for transportation of parochial school students in public school buses under certain conditions. Recently, the provision was ruled unconstitutional by the State Supreme Court.

Transportation of parochial school students in Oklahoma public school buses is illegal, State Attorney General Mac Q. Williamson has ruled. P.O.A.U. members in other states, please take note.

Victory! North Dakota bans wearing of religious garb by public school teachers. An initiated petition was voted on in the June 29 primary in North Dakota and our side won. So important was this issue that more ballots were cast on it than for selection of the Governor. This will probably end the payment of about \$60,000 per year of public school tax money to 72 nuns teaching in 11 counties and 19 public schools in this state. The spokesman for the Catholic viewpoint was a "Committee for Defense of Civil Rights" which, in paid advertising, made these statements on the issue: "Is the Catholic Church trying to take over the public schools? - No." "Sisters have been teaching in several schools in North Dakota for 34 years." "Not enough teachers to go around." "Why make it difficult for the rural schools to get teachers?" "If the people of a school district want to hire sisters, why should outsiders want to pass a law to prevent them from doing so?" "Now one promoter of the Anti-Garb bill lives in a district where sisters teach in a public school."

"Let us avoid the petty issues which divide the people of our state and nation, so as to be ready to face the great problems that lie before us." "The Anti-Garb bill is based on misunderstanding and misinformation and creates a problem where none exists." Stress is laid on the fact that radio stations and principal newspapers refused time and space for discussion of the Anti-Garb bill. "Unmentionable" say the Catholic spokesmen...this silence "indicates clearly that the issue never should have been raised."

The Committee for Separation of Church and State in North Dakota, a purely local development and not initiated by or affiliated with P.O.A.U., countered such emotional appeals with calm dignity and simple facts, summed up as "Unless stopped NOW, where will it end?" As stated at the outset - our point of view won by a decisive majority.

Methodists on Record with Congress. The 1938 General Conference of the Methodist Church represents millions of Methodists throughout the world and particularly in the Middle West and South of the U.S.A.

Methodists have the greatest number of representatives of any single denomination in Congress. Methodists are closely organized and most cohesive in their thinking.

The Methodist conference voiced "unalterable" opposition to the use of tax funds for the support of "private and sectarian schools."

The Conference also called on President Harry S. Truman to recall "immediately" Myron C. Taylor as his "personal representative" to the Vatican and asked the Chief Executive to "refrain from appointing a successor." Your votes will form the new Congress. Ask your candidate where he stands.

World Round-Up. Although P.O.A.U. is strictly limited in terms of action by the objectives laid down in our carefully considered Manifesto, you individual members are urged to keep in perspective the issue of church and state as it affects our troubled, changing world. As citizens and taxpayers, we are today affected by the political handling of our dollars in "Marshall Plan" countries. Here is news from over there in brief review.

The past two months have seen the Belgian Government fall and the French coalition is tottering. This is not due to food shortages, Communist strikes or runaway prices, but to the age-old problem of who is going to bring up the children - the Catholic dispute. The questions in ferment are the same as here.

Should governments help the priesthood by giving State grants to Catholic schools, or should State funds be reserved for non-religious education only? Should parents who desire to give their children a Catholic education receive State aid in paying fees? For the moment there has been a compromise in both countries, but no settlement.



Some Protestants Disagree with P.O.A.U. A statement on church and state, signed by twenty-one Protestants, released June 17, has attracted some attention. These churchmen appear somewhat worried over the recent Supreme Court decision about church-directed religious education in public schools. They fear that "whatever its intention may be, this hardening of the idea of 'separation' by the court will greatly accelerate the trend toward the secularization of our culture." They conclude, "The situation created by these decisions of our highest court makes clear that it is important for our great religious communions, without obscuring their differences of faith and policy, to explore the possibilities of working together. Only as we realize such possibilities shall we succeed in maintaining the religious foundations of our national life."

What situation has been created by the Supreme Court decision that we must now "explore the possibilities of working together?" Do not inter-faith meetings have the cooperation of all except that of the Roman Catholics? In order to avoid unpleasant differences, must every body yield to the Catholic minority, even to the point of giving up the American principle of separation of church and state?

Do Protestants need to adopt the Roman Catholic Church's over-worked word, "secularization?" Too often "secular" means non-Catholic. Is it "secular" for public schools to leave sectarianism to the church and the home? Is it "secular" to protect a child from ostracism because of his spiritual conviction? The basis of our public school education is true democracy. This group of Protestant churchmen (happily, by no means voicing American Protestant opinion on this matter) has issued a statement which accords well with the Catholic viewpoint.

Let us be guided, however, by the Protestant Episcopal diocese of Bethlehem, Penna., whose resolution, passed at its 77th annual convention, reads in part:

"The public recognition of God, our dependence on His bounty, our duty to follow His will, the brotherhood of man, historically American ideas, should be part of the public education of every American child.

"Sectarian emphasis, and detailed religious education are the concern of the churches, and have no place in the public school building, nor should they be supported by public taxation."

Dr. J. M. Dawson, recording secretary of Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State, said that the 8-1 Supreme Court decision is not a mandate for secularism to the exclusion of moral and spiritual values. "It is a positive protection against the menace of sectarianism in our public school system; hence, it is insurance of religious liberty and mutual goodwill among the sects. It is a direct service to the home and church, the divinely-appointed agencies for proper religious instruction....It produces a keen sense of obligation to strengthen, yet more and more, the high moral and spiritual values now being taught under the democratic processes of the public school."

P.O.A.U. is an action organization. Each member must mount guard on the wall of separation of church and state. Your weapon is truth - and literature that tells how men may remain free. Arm yourself now with literature listed below. Sell or give P.O.A.U. leaflets to your friends and neighbors or your club, congregation, your teachers' organization, or a community mass meeting. (Check off amount you desire.)

	Single copy	12 copies	100 copies	Amount desired
Manifesto - booklet form	5¢	60¢	\$4.50	
Open Letter (Answer to N.C.W.C.)	1¢	10¢	.75	
"Shadows Over Our Schools" - Mead	5¢	60¢	4.50	
"Time for a Showdown" (24 pp.) - Dana	5¢	60¢	4.50	
Assorted literature packet for mass meeting (100 items)			1.00	
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Shaping American culture toward Catholicism. Speeches in recent weeks by members of the hierarchy are of a pattern. They strive to alarm, that through secularization America will fall prey to Communism. Behind this emotional appeal, there is a shrewd strategy to place this once Protestant nation under the religious and social dominance of the Roman Catholic Church. As we Protestants and others remain divided among many faiths, this tightly cohesive minority seeks to conquer. In 38 of our 50 largest cities, Catholics stand first in number of church members. These cities set the pace of American culture. In 35 out of 48 states, Catholic communicants are more numerous than any single Protestant denomination. We are moving toward cultural unity. Universal radio, universal education, the universal motion picture, the universal press -- all these foster a closely knit community....And dominating all is universal government. Who is to shape that government? The Catholic Legion of Decency gained power over the motion picture industry by starting with censorship of lewdness. This now results in the present output of numerous pro-Catholic films. This cumulative influence on newspapers, radio, art, music and literature can no longer be ignored by thoughtful people. Roman Catholic policy in this country is projected and carried out by 145 bishops and archbishops who are the ruling American hierarchy. These men are appointed directly by the Pope on recommendation of the apostolic delegate whom the Vatican maintains in princely quarters in Washington. The intentions of this power network are clearly shown by the words of the Archbishop of San Francisco, spoken in 1921: "We have coordinated and united Catholic power in this country. It now knows where and when it can act and it is encouraged by the consciousness of its unity. We feel ourselves powerful because our union has become visible."

The un-American Roman Catholic view that the First Amendment was only intended to forbid the establishment of a particular state church, leaving the government free to aid any or all churches must be refuted. The historic view, opposed to the Catholic conception, is incorporated in forty-six state constitutions expressly forbidding government aid to churches, in decisions of various state supreme courts to the same effect, and in both the Everson and McCollum cases by the United States Supreme Court in relation to the First Amendment to the Constitution forbidding government support of churches. Some Protestants have espoused the Catholic view. The American Bar Association Journal carried an editorial which gave comfort to those who hold to the Catholic idea, but the editorial will be answered by one of the greatest constitutional lawyers in the United States, who will utterly demolish the argument of the editorial. Indeed, we are compiling opinions from a large number of the most competent legal experts, which abundantly sustain the Supreme Court. We predict there will be a growing acceptance of the recent Supreme Court decisions which upheld the historic interpretation of the Constitution.

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He may fill in the enrollment below.

.....  
Believing in the principles and policies as set forth in the Manifesto of Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State, namely, to: Mobilize public opinion for religious liberty, end the ambassadorship to the Vatican, resist church encroachment on public funds, and repeal state laws aiding church schools, I hereby enroll (or reaffirm) as a member

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